

chickens. It was so tame he thought he could have easily killed it with a club. The bird was thin, and from the appearance of its digestive organs it had fasted a long time.—A. H. WOOD, *Painted Post, Steuben Co., N. Y.*

**Megascops asio floridanus** in Louisiana.—While in New Orleans, in June, 1886, Mr. Gustave Kohn kindly gave me a number of birds and reptiles from his collection. Among them was a Florida Screech Owl (*Megascops asio floridanus*), several specimens of which he had secured in the vicinity of New Orleans. I believe this bird has not before been recorded from Louisiana.—A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Washington, D. C.*

**Ceophlœus pileatus** in Franklin County, Massachusetts.—During the month of August, 1886, two Pileated Woodpeckers were shot at Ashfield, Franklin Co., Mass.; and on October 7 of the same year a third, which I have, was shot. It is a male, but in not very good plumage, as it was moulting at the time it was shot.—RICHARD NORTON, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Breeding of the Prairie Horned Lark in Eastern New York—A Correction.**—In the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. VI, p. 177, I noted the capture, in April, 1881, of two young Horned Larks, just able to fly, and two adults, male and female, at Green Island, N. Y., and called them, specifically, "*Eremophila alpestris*"—not knowing their proper race name.

Mr. William Brewster lately saw the mounted skins of these birds and informed me that they are of the variety *Otocoris alpestris praticola*, described and named, in 1884, by Mr. H. W. Henshaw, in 'The Auk,' Vol. I, pp. 254-268.

I have given very little attention to the Horned Larks of this vicinity, but know of specimens of the variety *praticola* taken within five miles of Troy, N. Y., February 22, 1883, and in March and October, 1887. A larger and darker colored variety, probably *alpestris* proper, visits this locality in winter; and I have a specimen of that race captured here about April 25, 1845.—AUSTIN F. PARK, *Troy, N. Y.*

**The Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) on the Coast of Massachusetts.**—Looking over a large series of Horned Larks in my collection I lately found a pair of perfectly typical *O. a. praticola* labelled "Revere Beach, Massachusetts, February 28, 1883." Under this date my journal has the following entry: "I shot these birds [Nos. 7925, 7926] with another, a female similar to No. 7926, near the beach in a field where the ground was partly bare of snow. There were only three of them in all. The testes of the male were of large size but the ovaries of the females not correspondingly developed."

The female "similar to No. 7926" was badly shot, if I remember right, and not suspecting at the time (fully a year, it should be noted, before the appearance of Mr. Henshaw's admirable paper on the genus *Otocoris*) that it was anything more than a small dark specimen of *O. alpestris*, I doubt-

less threw it away. The fact that *praticola* has been found breeding within less than twenty-five miles of the western boundary of Massachusetts,\* taken in connection with that of the captures above recorded, makes it seem not improbable that the form in question may occur regularly, if rarely, in Eastern Massachusetts during the migrations, and perhaps as a summer resident in the extreme western portions of the State.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Occurrence of the Florida Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata florincola*) in Southwestern Texas.**—On the eleventh of March, 1887, while collecting at Leon Springs, Texas, I came up with a party of four or five Blue Jays in a grove of hackberry and live oak trees. Supposing them to be the ordinary eastern bird, only one of them was shot, and although they were seen several times at San Antonio, no other specimens were secured. Upon comparing my bird with typical examples of *Cyanocitta cristata florincola* in the United States National Museum, I find it to agree perfectly with them. The principal characters that distinguish the Florida bird from the specific form consist in the smaller size of the former and the much less amount of white on the secondaries and the two outer rectrices.

Mr. Ridgway, who first suggested that my specimen was *florincola*, entirely concurs with me in this determination.

This Jay is evidently a rare bird in Southwestern Texas, for the only authority I can find for its occurrence there is in Dresser's classical paper, where he states that he "was told by several hunters that the Blue Jay is found near San Antonio." Leon Springs is in Bexar County, about eighteen or twenty miles northwest of San Antonio. — CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM, *Washington, D. C.*

**Abnormal Plumage of *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*.**—I shot, October 21, 1887, in the valley of Mud Creek, thirty miles southeast of Las Animas, Bent Co., Colorado, a female *X. xanthocephalus*. It could fly well but was quite young. The barrels of most of the quills of wings and tail were dark and full of liquid. The plumage was more loose and ragged than is usual in birds that can fly. It differs from all young females I have seen as follows:—

Lesser wing-coverts whitish; scattering white and whitish feathers in hind neck, interscapulars, back, upper tail-coverts, breast, belly, crissum and flank. Feathers of the breast long and rounded — looking like cotton strings. One secondary in right wing whitish on both webs for one inch; middle tail-feathers the same for half their length. Right outer tail-feather pure white. One downy, round feather one and a half inches long, starting from below oil gland. It was with two other young birds. The date is much later than I have ever seen these birds in Colorado.—P. M. THORNE, CAPT. 22D INF'TY., *Fort Lyon, Colorado.*

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\* See Mr. Park's note above.